

The Times-Dispatch.

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THE TIMES-DISPATCH, Richmond, Va.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 1904.

A Good Measure.

On Tuesday last we referred to a bill offered in the House by Mr. Ould, providing that boards of supervisors in the several counties be required to make out twice a year an itemized statement of receipts and disbursements for the preceding six months, and that such statements be posted at the courthouse door and at each boarding precinct in the county, or published in one or more newspapers in the county or in an adjoining county or city.

A statute similar to this has been on the books for years, but our information is that in some counties it has been totally disregarded, and only in a few counties have the accounts been published in the newspapers.

The Ould bill has since been amended so as to make it mandatory upon the board of supervisors in each county not only to post their accounts as above, but after each meeting of the board to publish in the county newspaper or in a paper published in an adjoining county or city, an itemized statement of receipts and disbursements. Yesterday the bill, in its amended form, was ordered by the House to its engrossment, and we sincerely hope that it will become a law. The cost to each county of publishing these statements would be a mere bagatelle, and in order to safeguard against any possible extortion, it might be further provided that the price paid should not exceed so much per acre as the line. In most of the counties the cost would not amount to more than a hundred or so dollars a year, and the money would be well expended.

In looking over the Auditor's report for the year ending July 1, 1903, we find in a number of counties considerable sums of money charged up to "incidental expenses." In one county this item is \$6,077; in another, \$4,412; in another \$6,574; in many of them from \$2,000 to \$5,000, while in one county it is \$21,236, and in still another \$44,408.

Again, as we showed the other day, the counties are expending large sums of money for road improvement, the amounts ranging from \$5,000 to \$30,000 a year, and about as much more for schools. Naturally, the tax-payers wish to know how this money is expended. It is their right to know. It is their right to have copies of these accounts placed in their hands every month, so that they may judge them at their leisure and determine for themselves whether or not the money has been properly expended.

For many years we have been urging upon the General Assembly to require boards of supervisors to make public exhibits from time to time through the newspapers, and we are more than ever convinced that such a system is badly needed in Virginia. If everything is right, the boards can have no objection to making a full exhibit; if anything is wrong, then all the greater need for the show-down. In any event, the tax-payers will be better satisfied and boards of supervisors will be more careful how they disburse public funds. Nothing more surely spurs a public official to his duty than the knowledge that he must give an account of his stewardship regularly to his constituents. Virginia has been entirely too careless in inspecting the work of her officials, and has lost a great deal of money through her carelessness.

Northern Intolerance.

The Rev. Robert A. Elwood, pastor of a Presbyterian Church in the town of New Castle, Del., was recently tried before the presbytery "for un-Christian and unministerial conduct." The first and principal of the charges was that he had violated the constitution of the church and the confession of faith, and had preached unsound doctrine when he delivered a sermon on June last, "intended to excite the people to lynch one George White for the alleged murder of Miss Mabel Bishop." The fourth count charged disrespect to the civil courts, the preacher having said that if White was lynched, the responsibility would rest upon the courts for having refused a speedy trial.

Now let the New York Evening Post and the Boston Transcript and other such papers at the North lift their voices in denunciation of northern intolerance and in behalf of free speech, just as they rallied against southern intolerance when a North Carolina professor was recently called to account for publishing views on the negro question which the white people of the State considered unorthodox. If not, let them understand by this incident that although the Constitution guarantees to every man the right

of free speech, every man must be held responsible for the manner in which he exercises the right. Every preacher is responsible to the church organization to which he belongs for the doctrine which he preaches, and if he preaches that which is not orthodox according to the rules of the church, he must be held responsible to the church authorities for his breach. So also, is every man responsible to society for the manner in which he expresses himself. The people of the South know from long experience that the line between the races must be sharply drawn. There is no use in discussing the pros and cons. The principle is established and the rule is fixed and when any southern man preaches doctrine that is in conflict with this view, he will be called to account, and the southern people are no more to be charged with intolerance because of this established rule than any church organization is to be charged with intolerance for prohibiting its ministers from preaching doctrines which are contrary to the church's established principles.

The Maryland Senatorship.

That was a curious and wonderful senatorial fight in Maryland which has just ended. Ex-Governor Smith was active in bringing about a state of things which made it possible for the Democrats to reclaim the State from the Republicans, and was supposed to be "solid" with the "organization." But in the last fall's campaign Mr. Rayner took the stump and made an active canvass for the nomination. In many counties organizations were formed to forward his election. The Baltimore delegation was among those instructed for him, though the Baltimore "boss," Mr. Rasin, was not friendly to him. He was believed to represent the views of Mr. Gorman.

The Rayner men successfully opposed having the nomination made in caucus by secret ballot. They demanded an open ballot. After a number of fruitless roll calls, Rayner and Smith were found pretty evenly matched, and then the name of Bernard Carter was introduced—by order of Mr. Gorman. It was charged—but the Rayner men could not be budged and the supporters of Smith held together with unexpected tenacity. The result was that Carter could not get into the race.

Night before last the final caucus was held, and the old fight over the method of balloting was renewed, and the open ballot proposition prevailed. It was carried by a vote of 49 yeas to 40 nays—Young Gorman being one of the "nays"—Rasin was found working with the winning side. He resisted all of Smith's appeals for help, and mounted "the band wagon" in good time.

Another important factor in the success of Mr. Rayner was the transfer of the votes of the Somerset and Wilcombe members, with one exception, from Mr. Miles and Mr. Jackson to Mr. Rayner. This meant a total of eight votes, including that of Senator Applegate, of Dorchester. With these votes and the 39 votes polled by Mr. Rayner in the joint convention, the latter had enough to nominate him.

That Mr. Gorman's prestige as a national leader will be impaired by his defeat in his own State can hardly be questioned, but to what extent the future must determine. Mr. Rayner has issued a brief address in which he says that the struggle has been a great one, but that he is glad he has "passed through it without the slightest feeling of hostility to any one who has opposed" him. That would indicate his intention to allay feeling and quiet matters in Maryland. Meanwhile the Baltimore Sun, which was a tremendous power in the election of Mr. Rayner, considers that gentleman's victory as "a vindication of the principle of popular sovereignty and as an indication that the Democratic party is in touch with popular sentiment. Mr. Rayner has won because the Democratic masses were behind him."

So, indeed, it seems. Mr. Rayner is of proper senatorial mould. He is fifty-three years of age; was born in Baltimore; studied at the University of Virginia, and is recognized as a great lawyer. He has been Attorney-General of the State, and a member of the United States House of Representatives, where he ranked with the ablest members. He is an orator of high rank, and that he has force of character, he has shown throughout his life, and particularly in the canvass just ended. He is said to have inherited from his father a fortune of a million dollars, and he is the first United States senator Baltimore (which has one-half of the population of the State) has had in a quarter of a century. His term begins March 4, 1905, and he will succeed Mr. McComas, Republican.

We congratulate Mr. Gorman that he will have a colleague so able and distinguished.

A Story About Bryan.

In the course of an entertaining article on "Mr. Bryan and His Campaign," the Boston Globe says:

"It is grossly unjust to say, when he insists upon linking the campaign of 1904 with the campaign of 1896, that Mr. Bryan is deliberately and maliciously seeking to rule the party now that he can no longer rule it. It is not plain to every one that he is only doing to-day what he did four years ago, when he was a candidate?"

"His closest political friends were nearly unanimous in imploring him to enter his second campaign solely on the issues then before the country, and at least not to do more than reaffirm the Chicago platform. But no one could swerve him from his determination to have the silver plank of 1896 reiterated at Kansas City. He went to the length of refusing to stand as a candidate on any other platform. He would throw the nomination away unless it was to be emblazoned upon it. One by one those directly under his influence reluctantly yielded to him, but even then Mr. Bryan carried his point by only one majority in the resolutions committee."

There are those who believe that Mr. Bryan did not desire the nomination in 1900, knowing there was little or no chance to win in the general election. They also believe that Mr. Bryan insisted upon putting the silver plank into the

platform in order to force the convention to throw him overboard. If the convention had done so; if it had repudiated free silver and put up another candidate, that candidate would in all probability have been defeated, whether or not, and Mr. Bryan would have been in position to say to the party, "I told you so. You went back on your principles, and you got the defeat you deserved." This would have saved Mr. Bryan a second defeat, and would greatly have strengthened his position.

Mr. David Bennett Hill, of New York, who was a member of the committee that waited on Mr. Bryan just before the convention of 1900 was held and urged him to withdraw his demand for a silver plank in the platform, might tell an interesting story in this connection if he would. At least, such is our information.

Sowing Wild Oats.

Our Suffolk correspondent gave us yesterday an interesting story concerning one Richard Mullen, of Kentucky, who, after being for seventeen years a fugitive from justice, surrendered to the authorities and confessed to a crime which he committed in Kentucky in 1887. His conscience lashed him until he could stand it no longer, and he preferred to take the consequences rather than to wander longer as a free man with his guilt upon him.

His crime was committed during a drunken brawl in which four young men participated. Mullen now says that he is the only survivor of the quartette. One of them was killed by Mullen; another was killed near Johnstown, Pa., and Mullen is likely to die on the gallows, or, at least, to spend the rest of his life in prison. Only one of the four died a natural death. This is a terrible warning to young men. If they choose to drink and carouse and to play and fight and shoot, they may reasonably expect to die a violent death. The man who expects to die in peace must live in peace.

The Chamberlains.

"My right honorable friend, the member from West Birmingham," is how Austen Chamberlain is said to have described his father in the debate in the House of Commons on the opening day.

It was an odd situation. For the first time in years Joseph Chamberlain took his seat as a private member of the House of Commons, and was separated from his former colleagues in the cabinet by the gangway. "From this seat," says the London correspondent of the New York Tribune, "he saw his son act as leader of the House, a position which Joseph Chamberlain with all his years of parliamentary experience, never attained." Premier Balfour was kind up with influenza, and was, therefore, unable to be present.

Austen Chamberlain spoke haltingly and under evident strain. Yet when he referred to his father, it was always as "member for West Birmingham." Occasionally, as he proceeded in his argument, peers greeted the young man, and then always his father turned an angry glance in the direction of the offender.

We are told by the Tribune correspondent that the House was heartily glad when the speech was over and when "the proceedings of what was one of the most extraordinary personal situations that ever had occurred" were ended.

It seems that Tammany is in favor of giving the Democratic nomination for President to Mr. Cleveland. So far as its policy is disclosed by the guarded utterances of Mr. Murphy, that is its position. If that policy is carried out, the organization is assured of the active support of many prominent Democrats who, in 1896, and again in 1900, opposed the election of Bryan. And then, too, as it is quite certain Mr. Cleveland would not accept a nomination, Tammany would have in "a Cleveland delegation" what would amount to an uninstructed delegation, whose vote it could throw any way it wished.

Mayor McClellan has had to have closed eight theatres, the managers of which declined to conform to the fire ordinances of the city. They would not make the alterations in their theatres which had been required of them.

The Mayor has a public duty to perform, and the public would not excuse him if he neglected it and loss of life ensued.

Theatre managers cannot successfully fight public opinion on this subject. They must make their places safe—or close them.

The Chesterfield weather prophet, who was supposed to have followed the ground hog in the hole, was out long enough yesterday to predict a snow for to-morrow.

Washington is getting too warm for Senator Smoot, even though the mercury in the thermometer hangs low. The congress of mothers is booked for an early convention in that city.

While in Kentucky Mr. Bryan ought to have compared his presidential blacklist with that of Colonel Henry Waterson.

It all the bills now in and those to come shall pass the Legislature, the next edition of the acts will be an immense volume.

The storm hovering over the police department has a splendid opportunity to do some very fine atmosphere clarifying.

While Mayor Harrison has his hand in he might try to close the mouths of some of those University professors.

Colonel Bryan invaded Colonel Waterson's ballroom with a kind of fire and brimstone banner in his hand.

It is getting time for Japan and Russia to fight or quit blowing. There has been talk enough.

Possibly it was a cool blast from the White House that gave Mr. Hanna that chill.

Half Hour With Virginia Editors.

The Roanoke World is careful about calling names, but says: There now seems to be no doubt that the Panama Canal treaty, when it comes before the United States Senate for final disposition, will be ratified by more than the necessary two-thirds vote of that body. The disposition of Senators Tillman, Bailey and other southern senators to enforce their dictum in this matter upon their colleagues from this section will not avail. The southern people are Democrats as a majority, but they are beginning to see that the moss-back policy of obstruction and delay is doing too often to the detriment of the material interests of this section to be followed longer with it. The editors are required by certain of their leaders in the past.

The Farmville Herald reads a lecture to that alleged "good government" crowd in Norfolk in which it says:

"I am off your dirty, criminal conspiracy, and if you will serve the devil, have the courage to wear his 'livery.' Democracy has never yet lowered the flag in the presence of a more brave and of an enemy masked as a friend. And to the horrors of a Norfolk election now must be added the horrors of a general fuss in the Democratic family."

The Norfolk Landmark says: A member of the House of Delegates has introduced a measure imposing a fine on circus performers for the features they advertise. Now a measure of this kind is a disgraceful insult to the bill to make it a crime for circus parades to be more than fifteen minutes late. We'll all be happy yet, maybe.

Speaking of the German and English proposed effort to delirious King Cotton in America, as reported by the consul at Berlin, the Newport News Press says: Even if the deliriousness predicted by the German and English press is a fact, it might not be an unmitigated evil to the South. If diversified farming were allowed to take the place of the cotton monoculture, something else, there would be a much greater chance for permanent prosperity.

ACTION OF THE CAUCUS.

A Disgrace to the Democracy.

That is what the action of the Democratic caucus of the House in the matter of the Norfolk county members was. It must raise in the mind of every thoughtful Democrat a serious question as to the loyalty of Virginia becoming degenerate?

In sorrow and in shame, it must be said that the incident is a disgraceful and risky, when taken in connection with a train of events that it is unnecessary to detail here. The bad fact, the one that the Democracy of Virginia should be ashamed to detail here, is that the Democratic caucus of the House of Representatives, with its eyes wide open, has taken to its bosom two Fusionists, who, in the eyes of the Democracy, are no less than traitors to the party and to the cause of the Democracy. They are no less than traitors to the party and to the cause of the Democracy. They are no less than traitors to the party and to the cause of the Democracy.

A Plain Proposition.

It is a burning shame that a Democratic caucus should give a certificate of regularity to men who, by the aid of Republican votes, defeated Norfolk county's regular Democratic nominees for the Legislature. It makes no difference how able or how agreeable personally are the representatives of "fusion"; the matter is one of principle. The Democracy of Virginia is one and must have been understood. But we remember having recently heard a gentleman who is thoroughly familiar with the political situation in this State say that "there is no such thing as a plain proposition in politics."

Well, there is one plain proposition, which has been in vogue under previous conditions will kill the Democratic party in Virginia if they are continued under the name of "fusion." The Democracy of Virginia is one and must have been understood. But we remember having recently heard a gentleman who is thoroughly familiar with the political situation in this State say that "there is no such thing as a plain proposition in politics."

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Beginning of the Contest.

So far from the action of the House caucus having ended the contest in Norfolk county by admitting the Fusion members from that county to the Democratic caucus last night, it was but the beginning of a struggle, which is going to extend to all parts of the State. The Democracy of Virginia is one and must have been understood. But we remember having recently heard a gentleman who is thoroughly familiar with the political situation in this State say that "there is no such thing as a plain proposition in politics."

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FITZ CHIEF MARSHAL.

U. S. Troops Ordered to Take Part in Celebration.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) ALEXANDRIA, VA., Feb. 4.—General Fitzhugh Lee has announced to the George Washington Birthday Celebration Association his acceptance of their invitation to be chief marshal of the parade held on February 22.

The War Department has notified the committee in charge of the parade of the fact that a squadron of cavalry from Fort Myer and a company of coast artillery, thirty-two files strong, from Fort Hunt, have been ordered to this city to take part in the parade.

WOODWARD & SON. LUMBER. NINTH AND ARCH STS.

FOR WOMEN GENERALLY COMMENDED

Much That Every Woman Desires to Know

About Sanative Antiseptic Cleansing

And about the Care of the Skin, Scalp, Hair and Hands

Too much stress cannot be placed on the great value of Cuticura Soap, Ointment and Resolvent in the antiseptic cleansing of the mucous surfaces, and of the blood and circulating fluids, thus affording pure, sweet and economical local and constitutional treatment for weakening ulcerations, inflammations, itching, irritations, relaxations, displacements, pains and irregularities peculiar to females. Hence the Cuticura remedies have a wonderful influence in restoring health, strength and beauty to weary women, who have been prematurely aged and inviolated by these distressing ailments, as well as such sympathetic afflictions as anemia, chlorosis, hysteria and nervousness.

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per 100 pounds, in order to protect his interests, and maintain the grain market, which he had made it possible to establish at Omaha.

This reduction has been met by reduction in grain through Kansas City, caused by the competition between localities and cities, which in turn has affected the rate of the Missouri River territory to the Gulf. Forced by the competition of the lines extending east from the river, and unwilling to haul grain to the Gulf, the rate has been reduced at low rates, the Santa Fe has reduced the rates on grain from interior Kansas to the Gulf coast from 28 cents per 100 pounds in direct to a long haul of over 900 miles.

The irony of the situation is further deepened by the fact that very recently the railroads successfully defended before the Interstate Commerce Commission the reasonableness of the 28-cent rate on grain from the Missouri River territory to the Gulf, and then raised the rate to 30 cents. Having done so they now voluntarily, without any competition, reduce the rate 3 cents below the figure held by the commission to be a reasonable one. Traffic men declare that competition in the West with respect to Western grain in ruinous war, as it results in rates which leave no profit. To this the railroad commission has always replied, that when the rate on a commodity approaches the margin between profit and loss, competition is bound to cease at about the point of ruinousness and just rates.—Chicago Record-Herald.

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